

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. A solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels disposed in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion and a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages comprising:

a timing pulse generator portion for generating at least more than one pulse signal from among four pulse signals which are; a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion, and

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a switch circuit for alternatively selecting between pulse signals of said timing pulse generator or a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level which are not dependent upon signals from the timing pulse generator.

2. A method for driving a solid state image pickup device provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion and a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

in a first mode, a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion are selectively supplied to said solid state image pickup device,

in a second mode, selectively changing at least one pulse signal out of the first, the second, the third and the fourth pulse signals to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level independently from any of the pulse signals.

3. A method for driving a solid state image pickup device provided with a plurality of photoelectric converter portions being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row, and a

plurality of charge transfer portions for transferring the charges generated in respective rows of pixels in the plurality of photoelectric converter portions, wherein,

in a first mode, driving pulses from a pulse generator are supplied to all charge transfer portions, and in a second mode, driving pulses to be supplied to at least one of said plurality of charge transfer portions are switched over to either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level independently from signals of the pulse generator.

In the Title of the Invention: Please replace the title with Image Pickup Device with Circuitry for Switching Between Driving Pulses and other Signal Levels.
